

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03114 270947Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 AID-05 OES-07
/041 W
-----095491 270951Z /17

R 270920Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7887
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3114

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESTC, BEXP, EGEN, SF
SUBJECT: EXPORT CONTROL: SALE OF COMPUTER ITEMS TO BANTU
ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

REF: STATE 146970,

1. IN MEETING JUNE 24 AT CONGEN JOHANNESBURG HEADS OF IBM,
BURROUGHS AND 3M IN SOUTH AFRICA EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH
FACT THAT COMPUTERS, PERIPHERALS, SPARES, ETC. FOR DEPARTMENT
OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (BAD) NOW SUBJECT
TO INDIVIDUAL IMPORT LICENSES. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS
NOT NECESSARILY A CHANGE IN POLICY BUT EFFORT TO TIGHTEN
UP SCREENING TO ASSURE AGAINST USE IN SUPPORT OF APARTHEID.

2. THEY CONTEND, HOWEVER, THAT ESPECIALLY IN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE
THIS MEASURE MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT TO DO BUSINESS, OBLIGING
THEM TO MAKE THEIR BIDS SUBJECT TO ISSUANCE OF LICENSE
WHICH NOT REQUIRED OF THEIR EUROPEAN COMPETITORS. THEY
SAY IT FEEDS RUMORS ALREADY BEING SPREAD BY THEIR COMPETITORS
THAT SPARES AND MAINTENANCE CANNOT BE ASSURED FROM U.S. COMPANIES.
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3. IBM SAYS IT DOES NO BUSINESS CURRENTLY WITH BAD BUT
DOES WITH SOME HOMELAND GOVERNMENTS. BURROUGHS HAS SUPPLIED
MINICOMPUTERS TO REGIONAL BANTU ADMINISTRATION BOARDS. 3M SELLS
COMPUTER TAPE AND VIDEO TAPE TO VARIETY OF CUSTOMERS.

4. FIRMS MADE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS: (A) USG COULD SIMPLY

PASS WORD QUIETLY TO US FIRMS AS TO WHAT END-USERS ARE DEEMED OBJECTIONABLE AND THEY COULD CHECK WITH US BEFORE CONCLUDING ANY DOUBTFUL DEALS; (B) SERVICING OF EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN PLACE WITHOUT UPGRADE SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO INDIVIDUAL LICENSE; (C) THAT AMBASSADOR REPLY TO AN INQUIRY FROM THEM WITH A WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT IT IS NOT USG INTENTION TO INTERFERE WITH CONTINUITY OF SUPPLY.

5. WE DID NOT OFFER FIRMS MUCH SOLACE, POINTING OUT THAT EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR POLICY MADE IT LOGICAL TO REVIEW EXPORTS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD BE USED IN SUPPORT OF APARTHEID. WE SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT PROPOSALS (A) AND (C) ABOVE COULD BE ACCEPTED BUT AGREED TO MENTION (B) TO COMMERCE AND STATE. SUGGESTED THAT, IF PARENT FIRMS FELT STRONGLY ENOUGH ABOUT NEW CONDITIONS, WOULD BE BETTER TO RAISE DIRECTLY WITH COMMERCE IN WASHINGTON.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS PARA 4, ESPECIALLY (B). WOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT, IF WE COULD BE ADVISED OF SUCH PROCEDURAL CHANGES BEFORE THEY ARE IMPOSED, IT WOULD GREATLY HELP US IN DEALING WITH INCREASINGLY NERVOUS US AFFILIATES. ALTHOUGH REFTEL STATES POLICY DECIDED IN APRIL, WE RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM DEPT IN APRIL REITERATING POSITION THAT VALIDATED LICENSES ONLY REQUIRED FOR POLICE, MILITARY AND ATOMIC ENERGY APPLICATION.BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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